

Rogers House,
McHenry County
Coral Township
Matengo, Illinois

HABS-Ill.-144

HABS

ILL,

56-MARGO,

2-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. Ill.1.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago

JEDADIAH ROGERS HOUSE

Coral Township, McHenry County, Illinois

Owner: Mr. Victor Wilmot.

Date of Erection: 1846.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Anson Rogers.

Present Condition: Very good. All but front and one side are changed.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Wood exterior.

Other Existing Records: Photographs.

Additional Data: (See following pages).

JEDADIAH ROGERS HOUSE
MCHENRY COUNTY
CORAL TOWNSHIPDISTRICT NO. ILL.1.
NORTHERN ILLINOISEARL H. REED
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. Ill. 144

Robert Rider Tufts

SOURCESHistorical
Encyclopedia
of Illinois
and
Biographies
of McHenry
County
Citizens
Vol. 11,
p. 1034

This interesting farmhouse was built by Anson Rogers in 1846, five years after his father had received the land by grant from the United States government. Anson Rogers, newly come from a New England cultural background, with his bride of a few months, worked diligently to erect this Greek farm house. He went to Chicago for lumber for the columns and trim, and hauled it back by ox-team. The columns were fluted and finished by hand in the cellar during the winter months. All other trim was likewise created by hand, and black walnut was used in certain features of the design, this being cut from the immediate property.

Anson Rogers lived here until 1867, and upon his death the property was conveyed to his daughter, Maria Louise Rogers Seward, sister-in-law of W.H. Seward, Secretary of State in Lincoln's cabinet. As a focal center of social life, many prominent people crossed its threshold, including Mr. Lincoln.

McHenry
County
Abstract
Company,
Woodstock,
Illinois.

Due to the vague nature of the property abstracts, it can only be assumed that Maria Rogers Seward passed the property on to her daughter Grace, who retained the title until the present owner, Mr. Victor Wilmot acquired it in 1930.

The original plan of the house consisted of the conventional four room first floor and four room second floor, with a cook house and auxiliary buildings in the rear and detached from the house. This concept of plan remained until the property went into the hands of Grace Seward, at which time an addition was made to the rear of the house, providing for an additional eight rooms. At this time the design

began to suffer, and upon conveyance to Mr. Victor Wilmot, the only salient feature remaining was the front portico. 2-

As noted by Mr. Wilmot under date of April 5, 1935-"we found it necessary to make a great many changes on the inside. The house originally having sixteen rooms, was cut to eleven, thereby increasing the size of all first floor rooms. The second floor is exactly as it was originally built. The old wood-shed in the rear was eliminated and a back porch was added. In addition, several dormer windows were added on the second floor."

Finally we find the front elevation, the original side of the west elevation, and the stair newel quite undisturbed, aside from the changes in window lights. Mr. Wilmot's reference to the original building must be interpreted as applying to that state previous to his acquisition.

By

Robert L. Tufts

Emil W. Reed

Approved _____